



REGIONAL NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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USDA TO GAUGE FARMLAND OWNERSHIP AND FARM ECONOMICS

Denver, Colorado – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will begin surveying farmland owners to measure financial impacts and challenges of land ownership. Landowners will begin receiving forms for the survey, called Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Agricultural Land (TOTAL), by the end of December.

“The recent Census of Agriculture counted more than 55 million acres of land that were rented or leased in the Mountain Region, but it has been more than a decade since we spoke to landowners themselves,” said Bill Meyer, Director of the NASS Mountain Region Office. “I hope all who receive TOTAL surveys will respond to help us update landownership information and ensure that all decisions impacting Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming farmland are based on accurate data that come directly from the source.”

TOTAL is a part of the Census of Agriculture program, which means the response to this survey is mandatory. The TOTAL survey program will collect data from both farm operators as well as landlords who are not farm operators to create a complete picture of farm costs, land ownership, demographic data for farm operators and landlords, and improvements made to farm land and buildings, among other characteristics. More than 80,000 farmland owners and producers across the United States will receive TOTAL forms, including just under 3,000 operations sampled in the region which includes Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

“We realize that this survey is lengthy and some producers and landowners may have questions or need clarification,” explained Meyer. “In February, our interviewers will begin reaching out to those producers and landowners who have not yet responded to answer any questions they may have and help them fill out their questionnaires.”

In addition to accurate data, NASS is strongly committed to confidentiality. Information provided by respondents is confidential by law. The agency safeguards the confidentiality of all responses, ensuring no individual respondent or operation can be identified.

NASS will publish results of the TOTAL survey in its Quick Stats database in August 2015. Quick Stats tool is available online at quickstats.nass.usda.gov. NASS will also publish the economic data gathered in the annual *Farm Production Expenditures* report on August 4, 2015. All NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For state specific questions please contact:

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NASS provides accurate, timely, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for "NASS Data User Community."

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